

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 13, 2004, in which claims 32-40 were withdrawn from consideration; claims 1, 4-5, 14-15, 18, 20-21, and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Thoma et al.; claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Thoma et al.; claims 1, 3-4, and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hagemeyer et al. as evidence by Thoma et al.; claims 1-2, 5-7, 13-14, 18, 20, and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Tanahashi et al. as evidence by Thoma et al.; and claims 8-12, 16-17, 19, 22-24, and 27-31 were objected to. In reliance on the following remarks, the present application with pending claims 1-11, 13-24, 26-31, and 41 is in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

As amended, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 12 and claim 12 is canceled without prejudice. In the Office Action, claim 12 was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The rejections to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn and amended claim 1 allowed. In that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance, the rejections to claims 2-7 and 13-15, which depend therefrom, should be withdrawn as well and claims 2-7 and 13-15 allowed.

As amended, claim 18 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claims 25 and 31 and claim 25 is canceled without prejudice. In the Office Action, claim 31 was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The rejections to claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn and amended claim 18 allowed. Claim 26 has been amended to depend from claim 18. In that amended claim 18 is in condition for allowance, the rejections to claims 20, 21, and 26, which depend therefrom, should be withdrawn as well and claims 20, 21, and 26 allowed.

As amended, claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form. In the Office Action, claim 8 was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The rejection of claim 8 should be withdrawn and amended claim 8 allowed. In that amended claim 8 is in condition for allowance, the rejections of claims 9-11, which depend therefrom, should be withdrawn as well and claims 9-11 allowed.

As amended, claims 16-17, 19, 22-24, and 27 have been rewritten in independent form. In the Office Action, claims 16-17, 19, 22-24, and 27 were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The rejections of claims 16-17, 19, 22-24, and 27 should be withdrawn and amended claims 16-17, 19, 22-24, and 27 allowed. In that amended claim 27 is in condition for allowance, the rejections of claims 28-31, which depend therefrom, should be withdrawn as well and claims 28-31 allowed.

#### **New Claim 41**

New claim 41 includes a magnetic storage medium comprising a substrate having a substrate surface, a seedlayer structure overlying the substrate surface, wherein the seedlayer structure includes crystallographic texture tilted with respect to an axis perpendicular to the substrate surface and acts as a template for epitaxial growth, and a magnetic material layer on the seedlayer structure, the magnetic material layer having a C-axis tilted at about a first angle with respect to an axis perpendicular to the substrate surface and having a magnetic easy axis oriented at a second angle with respect to the axis perpendicular to the substrate surface, wherein the magnetic material layer has a columnar structure oriented generally perpendicular to the substrate surface. Thoma et. al, Tanahasi et al., and Hagemeyer do not individually or in combination show, suggest, or teach a magnetic material layer having the combination of a C-axis tilted at about a first angle with respect to an axis perpendicular to a substrate surface and having a magnetic easy axis oriented at a second angle with respect to the axis perpendicular to the substrate surface, wherein the magnetic material layer has a columnar structure oriented generally

perpendicular to the substrate surface. By contrast, FIG. 5 shows first and second seedlayers 44 and 46, respectively, tilted at an angle relative to an axis perpendicular to substrate 40 and magnetic material layer 68 having a columnar structure oriented generally perpendicular to substrate 40. It is respectfully requested that claim 41 be allowed.

### **In the Specification**

Lines 7 and 8 have been amended to include the serial numbers of two co-pending applications that were not known at the time of the original submission.

Line 2 of page 16 has been amended to include a comma that was inadvertently omitted in the original submission.

Line 8 of page 16 has been amended to correct a typographical error made in the original submission. The Examiner may reference that the numerical reference 68 is assigned to the magnetic material layer, not numerical reference 48.

Line 26 of page 16 has been amended to correct a typographical error made in the original submission.

Line 2 of page 18 has been amended to delete a comma inadvertently included in the original submission.

Line 19 of page 19 has been amended to correct a typographical error made in the original submission.

Line 25 of page 19 has been amended to include a period that was inadvertently omitted in the original submission.

Lines 22 and 23 of page 20 have been amended to include the serial numbers of two co-pending applications that were not known at the time of original submission.

### **Figures**

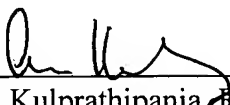
FIG. 2 has been replaced to correct an inadvertent label in the original submission. The Examiner may reference the specification to see that the number 23 was never used to reference an element of the invention.

In view of the foregoing, pending claims 1-11, 13-24, 26-31, and 41 are in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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